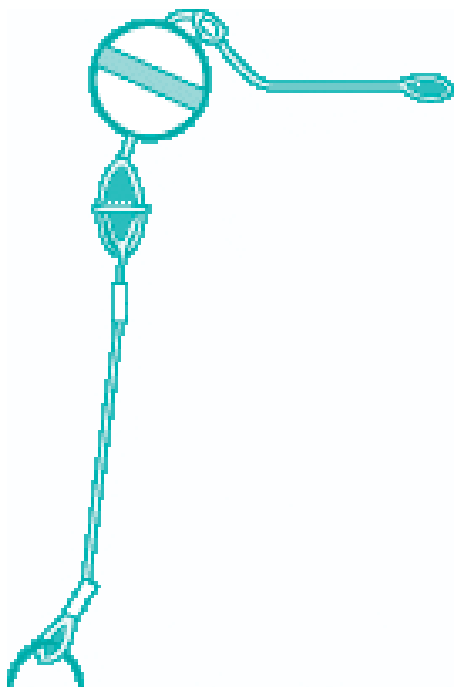




Mooring Buoy Hotline



Is your favorite mooring buoy missing or damaged? Have you noticed a missing boundary buoy for a Sanctuary Preservation Area (SPA)? Have you found a buoy floating free or washed up on shore? If so, the Sanctuary mooring buoy team could use your help. The team is made up of seven dedicated people employed by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to maintain more than 700 buoys found in Sanctuary waters. They not only install and clean the blue and white mooring buoys used by boaters to tie up at their favorite reef, but they take care of the large yellow buoys that act as boundary markers for the different Sanctuary zones and the spar buoys that mark the Wildlife Management Areas.

The Sanctuary has established a **Mooring Buoy Hotline**, (305) 852-7717 x 45 to make it easier for people to report missing buoys and retrieve lost ones. For missing buoys, please provide the name of the reef, nearest point of reference or buoy number, if known, and the date the buoy was missing or damaged. For buoys that have been found, call the hotline for a pick up. Buoys are an important management tool that have been shown to minimize the damage to reefs and other sensitive areas. Please help the Sanctuary mooring buoy team by reporting all damaged, missing, or found buoys to the **Mooring Buoy Hotline**.



Mooring Buoys protect coral reefs from damage by providing a place for the boater to moor up without dropping an anchor on the living coral or seagrass. A properly moored boat has some slack in the mooring line.

*Note: This article appeared in the Summer 2002 issue of the newsletter of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, **Sounding Line**. For more information, visit: floridakeys.noaa.gov.*